

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Document 68 of 84

ENVELOPE

CDSN = LGX473 MCN = 92160/18344 TOR = 921601552
OTTCZYUW RUEKJCS0324 1601553-~~CCCC RUEALGX.~~
ZNY-~~CCCCC~~

HEADER

O 081553Z JUN 92
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RUEADWD/OCSA WASHINGTON DC
RUENAAA/CNO WASHINGTON DC
RUEAHQA/CSAF WASHINGTON DC
RUERAAA/CJCS NMCC SITE R FT RITCHIE MD
RUFGAID/USEUCOM AIDES VAIHINGEN GE
RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RULSJGA/COGARD INTELCOORDCEN WASHINGTON DC
RHHMMCY/JICPAC HONOLULU HI
RUCIAEA/FASTC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH//SCIR//
RUEOACC/CDRPSYOPGP FT BRAGG NC//AORC-POG-SB//
RUCBSAA/USCINCLANT NORFOLK VA//J2//
RUWSMXI/AMC INTEL CEN SCOTT AFB IL//IN//
RUCQVAB/USCINCSOC INTEL OPS CEN MACDILL AFB FL
RUEORDF/DIRAFCM FT DETRICK MD//IS//
RUEOFAA/COMJSOC FT BRAGG NC//J2//
RULKQAN/MARCORINTCEN QUANTICO VA
RUSNNOA/USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GM
RUEALGX/SAFE
O 081506Z JUN 92
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0291
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC/ [REDACTED] (b) (3)
INFO RUEHKV/AMEMBASSY KIEV 1514
RUEAHOF/CDRPERSCOM ALEX VA//TAPC-PEZ//
RUHQHQA/CDR JTFFA HONOLULU HI
RUEKJCS/JCS WASHDC//J5-EUR//
BT

CONTROLS~~CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 016716~~

FOR EUR/ISCA AND EAP

~~E.O. 12356:DECL. OADR~~~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~**BODY**

TAGS: MOPS, PREL, US, RU
SUBJECT: KOREAN WAR ERA POW (U)

1. ~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~ ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. VIKTOR VIKTOROVICH ((PUGANTSEV)), FROM CHERNOVTSY, UKRAINE, WALKED IN TO EMBASSY TODAY WITH A STORY ABOUT A KOREAN WAR POW WHO PUGANTSEV CLAIMS WAS ALIVE IN THE GULAG AT LEAST AS RECENTLY AS 18 MONTHS AGO. THE ALLEGED POW'S NAME IS DAVID MARKIN OR DAVID MARKEN, WHO WAS 62 OR 63 YEARS OLD IN 1986, WHEN SOURCE LAST SAW HIM AT PRISON PL-350/5 IN PECHORA, KOMI IN SIBERIA. PUGANTSEV WAS IN THE SAME PRISON FROM 1982 TO 1986. THE CHIEF OF THE CAMP WAS LCOL ((GOLCHUK)), VASILIIY NIKOLAYEVICH WHO RETIRED SEVERAL YEARS AGO AND NOW LIVES IN PECHORA. PUGANTSEV SAYS MARKIN HAS BEEN IN PRISON SINCE THE KOREAN WAR, FIRST IN THE URALS, THEN NINE YEARS IN A PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL. PUGANTSEV DID NOT KNOW HOW MANY PRISONS MARKIN HAD BEEN IN. HE SAYS MARKIN WAS A PILOT. MARKIN WAS ALMOST SIX FEET TALL, WITH LIGHT EYEBROWS AND GREY OR GREEN EYES. ALL DOCUMENTS ON MARKIN WERE KEPT BY THE SPECIAL UNIT (SPETS CHASTY), USUALLY MEANING THE KGB IN SOVIET PARLANCE.

3. PUGANTSEV SAW A REPORT ON TV AT HOME IN THE UKRAINE ABOUT IPV NEWS USA, INC., AND SERGEI V. ((MELNIKOV)), ALSO IN THE USA, WHO WANTED INFORMATION ABOUT AMERICANS IN PRISON IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION. PUGANTSEV CALLED HIM WHEN MELNIKOV VISITED UKRAINE. THEY MET IN KIEV WHERE THEY HAD A VIDEO INTERVIEW. THIS INTERVIEW WAS SUPPOSEDLY TO BE AIRED IN THE US IN LATE MAY. SHORTLY AFTER GIVING THE INTERVIEW, PUGANTSEV'S FORMER CLASSMATE, A LOW-LEVEL KGB OFFICIAL, CAME TO HIM AND SAID "YOU'D BETTER FORGET ABOUT THIS. YOU BETTER GET OUT OF HERE AND GO SOMEWHERE ELSE, OR THEY WILL TRUMP UP A CHARGE AND PUT YOU BACK IN PRISON." WHEN MELNIKOV VISITED RSFSR PROCURATOR ((REKUNKOV)), REKUNKOV ASKED MELNIKOV FOR PUGANTSEV'S NAME, BUT MELNIKOV REFUSED. AS A RESULT, PUGANTSEV IS CONVINCED THAT IF HE REMAINS IN CIS A WAY WILL BE FOUND TO HAVE HIM RETURNED TO PRISON. HE STATED HE WOULD PREFER TO DO AWAY WITH HIMSELF RATHER THAN TO SERVE IN A STATE PRISON AGAIN. HE FEELS HIS ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE US OR IN ANOTHER COUNTRY OUTSIDE OF THE CIS.

4. PUGANTSEV SAYS THAT MARKIN WAS IN A PSYCHIATRIC PRISON FOR 8 TO 9 YEARS, DURING WHICH TIME HE RECEIVED MANY INJECTIONS. WHENEVER MARKIN MENTIONED WHERE HE HAD COME FROM HE WAS GIVEN ADDITIONAL INJECTIONS. MARKIN CLAIMS THAT HE WAS MOVED FROM KOREA TO THE USSR IN THE LATE 1950S AS ONE OF A GROUP OF 40 TO 50 AMERICAN POWS, AND THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN MORE SUCH GROUPS. THE PRISONERS WERE DISPERSED THROUGHOUT THE SOVIET UNION. MARKIN CLAIMED TO HAVE A WIFE AND TWO SONS, AGED 5 AND

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

11. HIS DOG TAGS HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM HIM IN SVERDLOVSK. HE HAD A 5-6" SCAR ON HIS LEFT SHOULDER. MARKIN WAS CONSTANTLY ABUSED AND HARASSED BY GUARDS AND INMATES IN THE CAMP, AND PUGANTSEV SAYS HE BEFRIENDED MARKIN AND MOST OF THE HARASSMENT CEASED. THEY THEN WORKED ON THE SAME WORK TEAM. PUGANTSEV SAYS THAT MARKIN WAS PSYCHOLOGICALLY HEALTHY.

5. DAVID MARKIN DOES NOT SHOW UP ON THE LISTS OF KOREAN WAR MIAS AVAILABLE TO POW/MIA TEAM IN MOSCOW. OF NOTE IS THE FACT THAT THERE IS A DAVID EARL MARTIN ON THE LIST OF 14 PERSONS ACCUSED OF WWII ERA FASCIST ACTIVITY WHICH WAS PASSED TO THE AMERICAN SIDE AT THE RECENT JOINT MIA/POW COMMISSION MEETING BY THE MVD. THE MVD WAS UNABLE AT THAT TIME TO SAY WHAT THE FATE OF THOSE 14 PERSONS WAS, BUT COULD ONLY SAY THAT THOSE NAMES DID SHOW UP IN THEIR FILES.

6. AT PRESENT, PUGANTSEV IS BEING ACCOMMODATED BY EMBASSY AT A LOCAL HOTEL, TO GIVE WASHINGTON AGENCIES A CHANCE TO CHECK HIS STORY AND PROVIDE FURTHER GUIDANCE. REQUEST ANY FOLLOW-ON QUESTIONS BE FORWARDED BY IMMEDIATE MESSAGE. FURTHER CONTACTS WITH PUGANTSEV WILL TAKE PLACE OUTSIDE OF THE EMBASSY.

7. KIEV MINIMIZE CONSIDERED. STRAUSS

ADMIN

BT

#0324

NNNN

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~